

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 38, Number 07

July 2013

ACGNJ Announcements

ACGNJ HAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES!

While many of our meetings shut down for the summer, others *don't*. Some of our Special Interest Groups have meetings scheduled. When you're not "catching some rays" or "riding the wild surf", maybe you might consider attending a few of them. Have you been curious about one or more of the SIGs to the right, but just haven't found the time to "drop in"? This could be the opportunity you've been looking for. Then, there's our annual Planning Meeting on Friday, August 23rd. In many ways, this can be considered our most important public meeting of the year. You want to affect the direction the club is taking? That's where it happens.

Have a great summer, full of fun, adventure and relaxation; and computer stuff *too*!

REMEMBER THESE DATES:

July 11, 2013 is the 19th anniversary of the death of Dr. Gary Arlen Kildall. He was the *real* "Father of the Personal Computer Revolution", the true progenitor of all things now credited to another. (See *Lest We Forget* in the Sept. 2007 ACGNJ News).

July 26, 2013 is the 14th Annual System Administrator Appreciation Day. Send your Sysadmin a bouquet of flowers and maybe some candy. (Unless you *want* your network connection to suddenly go down at the worst possible moment).

For further information, please go to:

<http://www.sysadminday.com>

ACGNJ Meetings

A summer schedule is even shakier than usual. For the latest ACGNJ meeting news, please check the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org) before you leave.

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, July 1, 8:00 PM

Monday, August 5, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Java: Tuesday, July 9, 7:30 PM

(No meeting in August)

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Investing: Thursday, July 11, 8:00 PM

Thursday, August 8, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, July 12, 6:00 PM

Friday, August 9, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Web Browser: Monday, July 15, 7:30 PM

Monday, August 19, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

Mobile Devices: (No meeting in July)

Wednesday, August 14, 7:30 PM

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org)

Planning Meeting: Friday, **August 23**, 7:00 PM

*The following do not hold meetings in the summer:
C/C++, Hardware, Layman's Forum, Main
Meeting, WebDev, Window Pains.*

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back page. 📄



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

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Aunt of “Why So Big?”

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Last month, as I was finishing up on what I thought would be my last “bigness” tests for Scribus version 1.3.3.13, I got some results that were *SO* totally unexpected that they threw me for a loop. (I’ll go over them again further below; but in a nutshell: everything came out *the same*). Suffice it to say that I was totally flummoxed. How could I make comparisons when there was essentially nothing to compare? Before I could continue, I had some re-thinking to do. So I ended that article quite suddenly, and took a break. Now, I’ve re-thought it over, and I’m ready to continue; but first, for your convenience, here are the same two recap paragraphs that I’ve included in several previous articles:

Scribus is my fun, fabulous, and *free* desktop publisher. Its newer 1.4.x releases are *!!!NOT!!!* backwards compatible with its earlier 1.3.x releases. **GIF** (Graphics Interchange Format) files were introduced by CompuServe in the mid eighties. They’re *compact*, and they use lossless data compression; but they support only 256 colors.

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laptop computer that I was using while I was in the hospital (to make our October, November and December newsletters, using the Windows version of Scribus 1.4.1) crashed suddenly (and *very* thoroughly), taking my not quite finished January newsletter along with it. It took me two special day-trips home (a total of 14 hours) to create a replacement from scratch on my main Linux computer (booted from my Ubuntu 11.04 hard disk, and running Scribus 1.3.3.13). Now, as I intended to do last month, I plan to *re*-construct that January issue several more times, using Scribus version 1.4.0, and booting from Ubuntu 12.04 this time.

But first, just a little bit *more* recap: This is the sixth installment in my “bigness” saga. The first five were *Why So Big?* (December 2012), *Son of “Why So Big?”* (January 2013), *Daughter of “Why So Big?”* (February 2013), *Niece of “Why So Big?”* (May 2013), and *Nephew of “Why So Big?”* (June 2013). The initial impetus for the whole series came from the undeniable fact that those original October (6.3 MB), November (5.9 MB) and December (4.8 MB) 2012 issues (done on a Vista laptop, remember)

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Unfortunately, some transcendent genius at Scribus has decreed that you’ll get useless, intrusive and distracting “Image is GIF” error messages any time that you use them. **JPG** (or JPEG, for **J**oint **P**hotographic **E**xperts **G**roup) files were introduced by the ISO (**I**nternational **S**tandards **O**rganization), also in the mid eighties. They’re *very* popular for digital photography, even though (or maybe *because*) they use lossy compression.

TIF (or TIFF, for **T**agged **I**mage **F**ile **F**ormat) files were introduced in the mid eighties as well, by the Aldus Corporation. Originally created for desktop scanners, they were quickly adopted by the publishing industry in general. They support lossless *or* lossy compression, as desired. **PNG** (**P**ortable **N**etwork **G**raphics) files employ lossless data compression. Their specification was originally authored via e-mail in the mid *nineties*, by a group of computer graphics users who were dissatisfied with GIF files for various reasons.

Still recapping: Back in January, the borrowed Vista

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came out *SO* much bigger than anything that I’d made under Linux. Also, please don’t forget that *all* three of those newsletters contained *serious* technical flaws as well. (For further details about those flaws, see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue).

Because I bailed out early last month, I was left with four “un-filled” Scribus work files. (They still contained every single bit of that issue’s text, but *all* of their images had been deleted). Their names were 2013Jan7-34J.sla, 2013Jan7-34T.sla, 2013Jan7-44J.sla and 2013Jan7-44T.sla. (34 signifies a “hybrid” version: already *deconstructed* by 1.3.3.13, and soon to be *reconstructed* by **1.4.0**, while 44 means a “pure” version: already *deconstructed* by 1.4.0, and soon to be *reconstructed* by 1.4.0 as well. The J means using only JPG images, and the T means using only TIF images). While I fully expect my “hybrid 34” and “pure 44” results to come out very close to equal for their respective file formats, I felt that I should test each of them at least once, just to be sure.

One last recap (I promise): Last month, I made two

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copies of the original Scribus work file for the Linux version of the January newsletter (the *only* version that actually got completed, and the exact same “Official” version that anyone can download from our web site). Leaving the original file *untouched*, I renamed my two copies 2013Jan7-3.sla and 2013Jan7-4.sla. Opening the “4” version first (using Scribus 1.4.0), I immediately made a PDF from it, just as it was. It measured 3.2 MB (actually 3,174 KB). Then I opened the “3” version (using Scribus 1.3.3.13). As before, I immediately made a PDF from it. It measured 2.2 MB (actually 2,311 KB).

So last month, in their first head to head comparison, a PDF made by Scribus 1.4.0 came out **1 MB bigger** than a PDF made by Scribus 1.3.3.13 from an *exactly* identical source file. (And remember, *smallness* is our goal). As for the other tests done by Scribus 1.3.3.13 last time, the PDF using TIF files measured 2.2 MB (actually 2,314 KB), and the PDF using JPG files also measured 2.2 MB (actually 2,332 KB). Those were the confusingly equal results that caused me to terminate that article early. In actual fact, the initial mixed file combination “won”,

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NL_CD_12.jpg. Adding it gave me a 260 KB increase. Going to page 15, I added its one and only image, 1108page15-150.jpg, (a 302.7 KB file) and I got a 310 KB increase. Then, on page 16, I added its one and only image, the 449.9 KB file 1108page16-150.jpg; and I got a 461 KB increase, for a final PDF measuring 2.2 MB (or 2,288 KB). That's actually 44 KB *smaller* than the PDF that Scribus 1.3.3.13 made for those exact same JPG files; and, in fact. it's 23 KB smaller than the *smallest* of the three 1.3.3.13 results given above. We've got a new *winner!*

Now for some TIF files. I opened “hybrid” file 2013Jan7-34T.sla and went to its page 1. The first image was the 113.1 KB file ACGNJ3RC.TIF. Adding it gave me an increase of 264.4 KB. Adding page 1's second image, the 194.2 KB file TINY_PC2.tif, gave me an increase of 27.4 KB. On page 10, the only image was the 50.7 KB file PC-SeeYa.tif. Adding it gave me a 10.6 KB increase in PDF size. As above, the sole image on page 12 was the 53.8 KB file PC-3line.tif. Adding it gave me a 63 KB increase in PDF size.

the exclusively TIF arrangement came in a **very** close second, and the JPG files came in an almost-as-close (but still relatively distant) third.

Now, *finally*, here's some new stuff: Starting with “hybrid” file 2013Jan7-34J.sla, I went to page 1. Its first image was the 134.3 KB file ACGNJ3RC.JPG. Adding it gave me an increase of 138 KB. Adding page 1's second image, the 14.7 KB file TINY_PC2.jpg, gave me an increase of 15.4 KB. There were no images on pages two through 9. On page 10, the only image was the 6.2 KB file PC-SeeYa.jpg. Adding it gave me a 6.7 KB increase in PDF size. There was no image on page 11; and the sole image on page 12 was the 38.5 KB file PC-3line.jpg. Adding it gave me a 39.7 KB increase in PDF size.

The six images on page 13 and seven of the eight images on page 14 were all copies of the 14.7 KB file TINY_PC2.jpg. (Already added on page 1). As expected, adding them gave me a difference of only **63 bytes**. (That's because I was only adding *links* to the first file, *not* complete file copies). The remaining image on page 14 was the 253.8 KB file

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As before, the six images on page 13 and seven of the eight images on page 14 were all copies of the 194.2 KB file TINY_PC2.tif. As expected, adding them gave me a difference of only **63 bytes**. The remaining image on page 14 was the 2.7 **MB** file NL_CD_12.tif. Adding it gave me a 512 **KB** increase. Going to page 15, I added its one and only image, 1108page15-150.tif, (a 498.4 KB file) and I got a 492 KB increase. Then, on page 16, I added its one and only image, the 690.6 KB file 1108page16-150.tif; and I got a 724 KB increase, for a final PDF measuring 3.2 MB (or 3,151 KB). That's **863 KB bigger** than the result that we just got for the JPG files; and, in fact. it's only 23 KB smaller than the PDF that I mentioned six paragraphs above, where I used Scribus 1.4.0 on the “4” version of the original January newsletter's work file. That's right! We've also got a new *loser!!!*

Now for the “pure 44” JPG tests: Opening 2013Jan7-44J.sla, I went to page 1. Its first image was the 134.3 KB file ACGNJ3RC.JPG. Adding it gave me an increase of 138 KB. Adding page 1's second image,

the 14.7 KB file TINY_PC2.jpg, gave me an increase of 15.4 KB. On page 10, the only image was the 6.2 KB file PC-SeeYa.jpg. Adding it gave me a 6.7 KB increase in PDF size. The sole image on page 12 was the 38.5 KB file PC-3line.jpg. Adding it gave me a 39.7 KB increase in PDF size. So far, so good,

The six images on page 13 and seven of the eight images on page 14 were all copies of the 14.7 KB file TINY_PC2.jpg. As expected, adding them gave me a difference of only **63 bytes**. The remaining image on page 14 was the 253.8 KB file NL_CD_12.jpg. Adding it gave me a 260 KB increase. Going to page 15, I added its one and only image, 1108page15-150.jpg, (a 302.7 KB file) and I got a 310 KB increase. Then, on page 16, I added its one and only image, the 449.9 KB file 1108page16-150.jpg; and I got a 461 KB increase, for a final PDF measuring 2.2 MB (or 2,288 KB). As I'd hoped and expected, things went exactly the same as in the "hybrid" JPG tests above. Ah, consistency.

Now for the "pure 44" TIF tests. I opened 2013Jan7-44T.sla and went to its page 1. The first image was the 113.1 KB file ACGNJ3RC.TIF. Adding it gave me

an increase of 264.4 KB. Adding page 1's second image, the 194.2 KB file TINY_PC2.tif, gave me an increase of 27.4 KB. On page 10, the only image was the 50.7 KB file PC-SeeYa.tif. Adding it gave me a 10.6 KB increase in PDF size. As above, the sole image on page 12 was the 53.8 KB file PC-3line.tif. Adding it gave me a 63 KB increase in PDF size. So far, so **bad**.

As before, the six images on page 13 and seven of the eight images on page 14 were all copies of the 194.2 KB file TINY_PC2.tif. As expected, adding them gave me a difference of only **63 bytes**. The remaining image on page 14 was the 2.7 MB file NL_CD_12.tif. Adding it gave me a 512 KB increase. Going to page 15, I added its one and only image, 1108page15-150.tif, (a 498.4 KB file) and I got a 492 KB increase. Then, on page 16, I added its one and only image, the 690.6 KB file 1108page16-150.tif, and I got a 724 KB increase, for a final PDF measuring 3.2 MB (or 3,151 KB). As I'd anticipated and feared, things went exactly the same as in the "hybrid" TIF tests above. In a word, terrible. To quote myself; "Why So Big?"

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How about a summary? Ten paragraphs above, I mentioned making two test PDF files from copies of the untouched original January newsletter's work file. (Which, by the way, contained 14 tiny GIF images and 6 PNG images, some quite huge). The one produced by Scribus 1.3.3.13 measured 2.2 MB, while the one produced by Scribus 1.4.0 measured 3.2 MB. In the "pure 33" tests that I performed last month (using 1.3.3.13), the JPG and TIF tests **both** produced PDFs measuring 2.2 MB. In the "hybrid 34" and "pure 44" tests performed just now (all using 1.4.0), the two JPG tests produced PDFs

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measuring 2.2 MB, while the two TIF tests produced PDFs measuring 3.2 MB.

Now what about a conclusion? Well, as far as our January 2013 newsletter goes, we got 2.2 MB results for any and all image file combinations when using Scribus 1.3.3.13; but when using Scribus 1.4.0, we only got 2.2 MB results for JPG files. So it's obvious. To get the smallest possible output PDFs (**whichever** version of Scribus we use), **JPG** images are the only way to go. Unbelievably, however, we're **STILL** not quite done yet. So:

See you next month. ☐

Windows 8 – What You Need to Know

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS (www.compukiss.com) sandy (at) compukiss.com

Recently Microsoft released a new version of its operating system. Unless you've been living under a rock, you've already heard about Windows 8. So today I'm going to give you the facts – just the facts....focusing on what you will need to know about Windows 8.

First, all versions of Windows 8 have a new

interface, which is radically different from any previous versions of Windows. The traditional start menu is gone. Now when you start your device you see a colorful conglomeration of squares and rectangle called "tiles." These are not small squares like you might see on an iPhone or iPad, but are rather large. You touch or click on these tiles to

launch programs and/or apps. Some of the tiles are “live” meaning that you can set them up to see real-time information like the weather, stocks, email, or news.

I can assure you that when you start using Windows 8 you will be stymied as to how it all works. So be sure to allow yourself a little time to investigate the new operating system. It may take a few weeks before you feel comfortable with the new interface. Yet, after using Windows 8 for a few months, I can also tell you that that this version is far superior to Windows XP or even to Windows 7.

The second thing that you need to know about Windows 8 has an underlying interface that is very similar to the Windows 7 desktop. In Windows 8, it is simply called “Desktop.” You can switch to this Desktop at your discretion (just click on or touch the Desktop tile). You will be switched to the Desktop automatically if you start a program like Notepad, Word, Excel, etc.

You might have heard that Windows 8 is made for touch screens and that is true. Yet every finger

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upgrade your computer to Windows 8. Windows 8, however, will also come on some tablets and laptop-like computers. That’s where the confusion lies.

If you purchase a tablet you will have to know if you are purchasing a tablet with Windows 8 RT or Windows 8 because there is a big difference between the two. The colorful new interface is the same on both and both can run the apps that can be found in the Microsoft app store. The biggest difference is that RT can run only Apps. It cannot run desktop applications like Photoshop, Quicken, and Family Tree Maker. Yet Microsoft has been very smart about this. They have developed their main Microsoft Office 2013 programs as Apps. In fact when you purchase an RT tablet, Microsoft Office Home and Student Preview Edition comes preinstalled. When the Final version is released, it will automatically be downloaded and installed at no cost. So while the RT version can’t run full-blown programs, it can run Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote and actually comes with all of these. The Office Apps automatically appear in the Desktop interface that

motion has a corresponding mouse and a corresponding keyboard motion. So it can also be used on a regular computer. I have used Windows 8 on a computer with touch screen and also on a computer with only a keyboard and mouse. It is very workable on both.

The third thing that you need to know is that Windows 8 comes in four flavors: Windows 8 Phone, Windows 8 (called RT) for tablets, Windows 8 (standard), and Windows 8 Pro. The Windows 8 Phone works only on smartphones and will come preinstalled. The Windows 8 Pro offers extra data protection, remote desktop, and the ability to join corporate domains. It will mainly be used for businesses. So you, as an average consumer, only have to worry about two versions, RT and the standard version, which is referred to simply as Windows 8.

The RT version will come preinstalled on certain tablets. You won’t be able to upgrade to it. Windows 8 will come on almost all new computers and, if you have a newer computer or laptop, you will be able to

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looks like Windows 7. If you have used any of these Office programs on your Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7 computer, they will look and feel pretty much the same. Of course there will be some new features, but most of the features of the older desktop versions of these Office programs are available in the Apps. The two exceptions that I found were that the App versions of Office don’t support macros or add-ons.

If you purchase a new computer with Windows 8 or the Windows 8 upgrade, which is currently available online through Microsoft for \$49, you will not get Office for free. You will either have to make that a separate purchase or use an older version of Office that you already own. (Microsoft says older versions, even those as old as Office 2002 will work fine with Windows 8.)

Besides the new interface, Windows 8 boasts some key improvements including longer battery life for portable devices, faster boot times, and a smaller memory footprint. Most full-blown programs that run well in Windows 7 will also work with Windows

8 (not with Windows 8 RT). Once you are used to Windows 8, you will probably find it easier to navigate than previous versions of Windows. So there are many reasons to upgrade or to purchase a new computer with Windows 8 preinstalled.

Making the move to Windows 8 will be beneficial, but there is a learning curve, especially on a non-touch desktop or laptop computer. Also, with Windows 8 RT completely based on Apps, the number of Apps available in the Microsoft App store is very important. Right now their store has only about 7,000 Apps in the Microsoft store compared to

100,000 in the Apple App Store. While some of the major Apps like Evernote and Kindle are already available, others like Words with Friends and Angry Birds are not. Of course, if Windows 8 is popular, the number of Apps is sure to increase dramatically and quickly. Because of the learning curve and the wait for Apps, I expect that acceptance of Windows 8 may be slower than expected.

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Look Back Tech

Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
Newsletter: Drive Light (www.uchug.org) president (at) uchug.org

No matter how modern your technology may be, you usually can't escape your past. The introduction of the personal computer 30 years ago started a revolution in how we deal with correspondence, communications, photography and music. This revolution resulted in an evolution of capabilities

over three decades, culminating in the Ultrabooks, tablet computers, personal music players and digital and video cameras we have today. In the fast-paced and ever-changing world of computers and consumer electronics, the past, as defined by different features and capabilities, can be as recent

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as yesterday. And unfortunately, something new and improved usually means something else just became obsolete, sometimes before its time.

Unless you just came out of a 30-year coma, you probably have computer files, media and devices that are not fully compatible with the latest in computers and electronics. For those of us that have been using computers and technology for even a short time, moving to the next, newest, latest and greatest will involve change. How do we bring along the content we have created and used in the past? How can we continue to use our favorite old devices?

Fortunately, there are a number of devices available to address these issues. They are often called translators, converters or copiers, but I like to think of them as "look back" devices. They can help us look back to an earlier time, bridge the divide between technologies and bring our content, be it music, photos, video, documents or information, along with us as technology evolves. And boy, does it ever evolve.

Imagine archaeologists stumbling upon an undis-

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covered ancient library. Despite alphabet and language translation issues, they could probably eventually learn quite a lot about the time period in question, as ancient civilizations typically used information recording technologies we can still easily use today. Assuming they are in good condition, carved stone tablets are still as readable now as they were when carved thousands of years ago. Even the information in paper books preserved from a hundred years ago is still easily accessible. That may not be the case, however, with information stored from only ten or twenty years ago.

Imagine instead opening an unclaimed storage locker that has been closed for 10 to 20 years, and finding it contains lots of important and interesting information. Unfortunately, it is stored on Betamax, VHS and cassette tapes, LP records, 8 inch, 5.25 inch and 3.5 inch floppy disks, SmartMedia flash memory cards and bare Parallel ATA (PATA) hard drives. You might feel the archaeologists have an easier task in obtaining their information. Even if you could come up with functional hardware to read all these old media types, how could you provide the

data to someone that wants to access it on an iPad?

Fortunately, there is look back technology available to access and translate a lot of that old media. Although current computers no longer have drives to read removable magnetic disks, and the latest Ultrabooks, Chromebooks and iPads don't even have optical disc drives, there are a lot of USB external drives available for these older media types. I have not seen (at least recently) any USB external drives for reading 8" or 5.25" floppy disks, so for those you might have to rely on an old working computer. USB external drives are readily available for 3.5" disks, however, and are great when you have older



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equipment (like electronic test equipment) that can only store to its built-in floppy drive. There are also plenty of USB external optical drives available to read and write CD, DVD and even Blu-ray discs.

There are a number of options when it comes to getting information off of older computer hard drives. If you don't have a computer that supports the older drive, there are plenty of hard drive external enclosure kits available to interface all sizes of PATA and SATA hard drives to USB. The Apricorn DriveWire Universal Hard Drive Adapter is one of several similar products that can easily connect any size or type of bare hard drive to USB for data transfer. It is great for transferring files you forgot you needed from those old computers that won't boot anymore, or have no removable media in common with your new computer. For bare SATA drives, there are also quick-change docks available to easily access them through USB or eSATA.

A lot of laptops and tablets have slots for reading the removable flash memory cards commonly used in digital cameras, but most can only accommodate SD

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(Secure Digital) cards. Many of the older or less popular media formats, like CompactFlash or SmartMedia, are not supported in new devices. There are a lot of USB adapters available for almost any memory card format that has ever existed, allowing these cards to be read again. I have one USB media adapter that claims to accommodate 56 different types of memory cards.

Though almost everyone now captures and enjoys audio-visual entertainment through digital means and devices, including digital still and video cameras, personal digital music players and streaming audio and video, the all-digital era is at



most only two decades old. Many of us still have music, pictures and video in an analog format, which makes them more difficult to enjoy in our digitally-oriented world and makes the originals more vulnerable to loss or degradation over time. Fortunately, there are many look back devices available to help bring these analog items into the digital world.

For printed materials like photographic prints, a good flatbed scanner can make excellent digital scans. For less critical material, a hand-held scanner can digitize much quicker with good results. Where the original is a film negative or slide, there are a lot

of reasonably priced film and slide scanners available to allow those old memories to be more easily accessed and permanently preserved in digital form. At one end of the spectrum are precision film scanners that make high-resolution scans but require more time to scan. There are also lower-cost film scanners based on digital camera sensor technology that make very fast scans of reasonable quality. These scanners, such as ones made by Wolverine Data, make it possible to convert large collections of slides or negatives to digital files in a reasonable time. There are services available to perform these conversions for you for a fee as well.

For those that have large collections of vinyl audio records, cassette tapes or even 8-tracks, there are devices that can be connected to your computer through USB to digitize from almost any audio source. These devices take in right and left channel audio inputs, and so require that you still have an appropriate and working player available. There are also USB players for vinyl records and for cassette tapes, which allow those media to be played and

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have to buy a new GPS simply because your new PC doesn't support the interface it uses.



The last look back application is in telecommunications. Today all computers have either a wired Ethernet connection, a Wi-Fi capability, or both. It was not too long ago, however, that the only way to get on the Internet was

through a dial-up connection with a modem. Unfortunately, there are still parts of the rural U.S. where dial-up may be the most reasonable option. Since

digitized through your current PC or laptop. These are great when your record or tape collection was preserved, but you no longer have a turntable or cassette player that works. There are also many devices available for digitizing analog video, such as from camcorders or VCRs, but these all rely on you having a working player to provide the analog electrical signals.

The look back devices so far described allow legacy data storage to be accessed by current computers and analog media sources to be digitized. But what do you do when you have legacy hardware, like a parallel port printer or a hand-held GPS receiver with serial port interface, that you still want to use? There are USB to parallel converters, so that you can electrically connect that parallel port printer to your Chromebook. There are also USB to serial converters, which provide me a way to connect my old Magellan hand-held hiking GPS to my laptop (which has no serial port) and download tracks. Computer technology seems to advance much faster than some other electronics, and it seems a waste to

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modems disappeared from new computers many years ago, the best way to connect your Ultrabook to the Internet in these locations may be through an external USB modem.

The problem with advancing technology is that it makes everything obsolete eventually. This means there will be a bright future for these "look back" devices to handle the things we expect in our current computers at some point. While USB is pretty universal, I don't expect to find a cloud with a USB port on it.

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Streaming Music - An Alternative Method

Phil Sorrentino, Member, Sarasota PCUG, FL

Newsletter: PC Monitor (www.spcug.org) [philsorr \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com)

With Windows 7, Microsoft has provided a great way to share music on your home network. Each computer (using Windows Media Player), can share the music from every other computer within a Windows7 "homegroup." This is accomplished by

allowing "streaming" when the homegroup is set up. If streaming is turned on, then the music from another computer in the homegroup will show up in Windows Media Player as available music to play. If you don't see the other computer's music, you

probably did not turn on streaming. If you didn't turn on streaming when you set up your homegroup, you can remedy that by going to the other computer, starting Windows Media Player, clicking "Stream" and choosing "Turn on Media Streaming with Homegroup," and then checking "Music." That should allow you to play the music from the other computer on your computer.

Though this is a great accomplishment, it may not be very useful, especially if both computers are in the same room or at least close by. But if the computers are in different rooms or on a different level in the house, or at the other end of the house, it could be very useful. Just imagine playing music from your music collection, which resides on your main computer in the computer room, on your laptop while sitting at the pool. Or in my particular case, playing the music that resides on my main computer in the computer room, in the living/family room through my very high fidelity stereo system.

Streaming within a homegroup is a great feature for computers running Windows7, but if you have

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built into Windows Media Player and can suffice for most network music streaming, but they are very dependent on these features being part of Windows Media Player, and future versions of Windows Media Player. A more general way to accomplish playing music in a main computer, but listening to it on another computer, is to develop Playlists that can be used on any computer in the network. Playlists developed in this fashion do not restrict you to the use of Windows Media Player, and can be used with many other music players.

There are a handful of file extensions for playlists, such as .m3u, .wpl, .pls, and .b4s. Windows media player can use .m3u and .wpl. It seems to prefer .wpl as its default setup for playlists. The .m3u extension is the most general format and is recognized by many music players, so this is my preferred playlist file extension. (If you use Windows Media Player to create your playlists, make sure you select the .m3u format when the playlist is created.) An m3u file is a plain text file that specifies the location of one or more music files. Each line indicates one

network computers that are not running Windows7, there is still a way to play music on these computers. This method is called "Play to." It allows you to play music in the main computer, but listen to it at another computer, possibly where there is a better set of speakers, or a room where there will be a large number of listeners. (This feature supposedly works with any electronic component that advertises the DLNA (Digital Living Network Alliance) logo, though I have not tried any.) On the computer that is to receive the music, you will have to Open Media Player, Choose Stream, Choose "Allow remote control of my player, and click the confirmation box, "Allow remote control on this network." Then, on the main computer, In Media Player, on the Play tab, click the "Play to" icon. The pop-up menu should list all the PCs in the house that have been prepared for remote operation. Just choose the computer to receive the music and you're set to enjoy the music from your main computer, using the computer in the listening room of choice.

The Alternative Method: The above two methods are

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specification. The specification can be any one of the following: an absolute local pathname (e.g. C:\My Music\Brooklyn Roads.mp3), a local pathname relative to the m3u file location (e.g. Brooklyn Roads.mp3), a URL (used to access a stream on the Internet). The m3u file can also contain comments prefaced by the "#" character.

So the alternative method consists of creating a set of playlists that can be used on any machine on your network that will play the music from your main computer (where your music collection is stored). For example, let's say we have four computers on your wired and/or wireless home network, named D1, D2, L1, and L2 (D is used here to designate a desktop computer and L is used to designate a laptop, but in reality these will be the names of the computers on the network.) And further let's think of D2 as the main computer, where the music collection is housed and maintained. (Note here that there is only one computer collection to be maintained which makes maintenance and backup simpler.

The only thing to be maintained on the computers

other than the main computer is the folder of playlist files, which can be easily copied when or if the original files change.) So each playlist will be defined by a playlist file, which has the extension .m3u, and should have entries that represent the music choices on the D2 computer. Each playlist file should probably have names that represent the type of music in that playlist, like Oldies.m3u, or SentimentalMusic.m3u, or MoodMusic.m3u, or TheBeatles.m3u. The playlist file will have a series of lines of text, each one representing a music title to play. Each line will be as follows: [\\D2\E:MP3MusicCollection\MusicTitle.mp3\\D2\E:MP3MusicCollection\MusicTitle.mp3](#). Where “D2” represents the main computer name, “E:” represents the disk that the music collection is on, “MP3MusicCollection” represents the folder the music is stored in and should be the “share name” for the shared folder, and MusicTitle.mp3 represents a song to play. (Here is an example: [\\Desktop2\MP3MusicOn2E\MusicA\Jefferson Starship – Miracles.mp3\\Desktop2\MP3MusicOn2E\MusicA\Jefferson Starship – Miracles.mp3](#). Note here that there

is a Music folder, MusicA, within the top level Music folder, MP3MusicOn2E.)

This type of file can automatically be created by Windows Media Player when a playlist is created, or it can be created manually with Notepad. (Not wordpad or word because the playlist file must be a simple text file without any associated formatting. Once a playlist is created it should only be opened and edited within Windows Media Player or with Notepad, again for the same reason.)

With the above defined playlist files copied to any networked computer, you should be able to play the music at that computer; D1, D2, L1, or L2, using the music collection on the main computer, D2. Any computer that is on your network only needs a copy of the playlist files and a music player to use this alternative streaming method to allow you to enjoy, remotely, the fruits of your music collection.

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Two Useful Tools for Improving Documents

*Nancy DeMarte, Regular Columnist (Office Talk), Sarasota PCUG, Florida
Newsletter: Sarasota PC Monitor (www.spcug.org) ndemarte (at) Verizon.net*

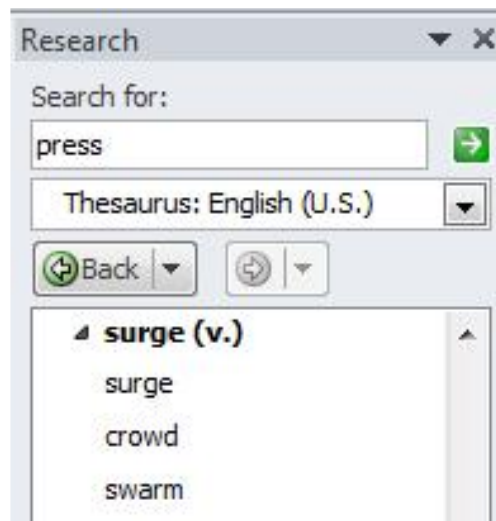
Word provides good tools for correcting mechanical errors in documents, but sometimes I find I want to improve the writing quality of the document, which I do in the revising stage. Here are a couple of tools that I use to clarify meaning and eliminate redundancy. These tools are available in many versions of Word, although my descriptions here are based on Word 2010.

Thesaurus

When I can't think of a word which says precisely what I mean, I turn to Word's Thesaurus. It is located on the Review tab in the Proofing group on the Word 2007/ 2010 ribbon. I prefer to open it by highlighting the word I want to improve, then using the keyboard shortcut, Shift+F7 (Hold Shift while pressing F7). This opens the Thesaurus in the Research pane as a sidebar of the document window, and shows my word's synonyms arranged by context.

For example, when I select the word, “press,” and

press Shift+F7, the US English Thesaurus opens and reveals eight context categories: media, crowd, surge, pressure, pursue, iron, push, and pursue (legal), each with a list of 6-8 synonyms below it. Almost always, I can find a word among those listed that fits my need.



If the English Thesaurus doesn't satisfy my search, I can click the arrow next to Thesaurus and choose another of several reference books, such as dictionaries, translators, and Thesauruses for other languages. I can also add new reference books to my research choices by clicking "Research options" at the bottom of the Research pane and putting checkmarks next to those I want available. These include specialized books, such as the Foreign Word Spelling Look-up, Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, and Thomson Gale Company Profiles.

Find and Replace

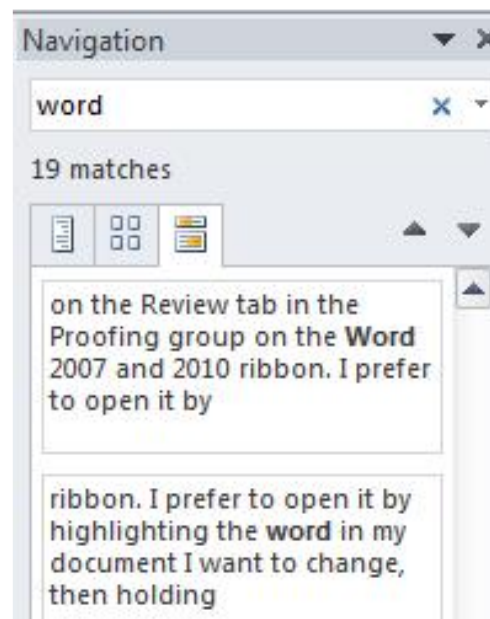
Another bad habit writers have is redundancy; we tend to repeat words or restate ideas. My favorite tools for fixing this problem are Word's Find and Replace commands, located on the Home tab in the Editing group. Click Find (the binoculars icon) to open the Navigation pane or use the shortcut Ctrl+F (hold the Ctrl key and press the F key). Because I use this tool so often, I have pinned the Find tool to the Quick Access toolbar above the ribbon. Any command I use often is on that toolbar.

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Navigation pane also displays the sentence portion surrounding it. I realized that I needed to reword (oops, I mean rephrase) some sentences to eliminate those annoying repetitions.

Searching using the Navigation pane is a simple way to find repeated words, but it has limitations. What about the situation where "Word" is capitalized because I'm referring to the computer program? I may not want to include these in my search. Here's where I need to open the "Advanced Search" so I can set some parameters. To do this, I can click the arrow next to Find on the Home tab or the arrow next to the search box on the Navigation pane and select Advanced Search. What opens is the traditional Find and Replace dialogue box, which offers some interesting filters for searching. Here I can set some rules for my search by clicking "More." I put a checkmark next to "Match case" so that my lower case "word" search would not target upper case "Word." Another helpful filter is, "Find all word forms (English)," which would have highlighted "words" and "worded," along with "word," in my earlier search.

The Navigation pane offers a quick way to find out how many times I've used the same word in a piece I'm writing. For instance, I just searched this article for the word, "word", and was blinded by all the yellow highlighted "words" in the document. Besides locating and highlighting each instance, the



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The Replace tool is a natural complement to Find, although in my writing I rarely use it. It has its own icon on the Home tab and its own tab behind Find in the Find and Replace dialogue box. What it does is let me find all the instances of a word, and then replace all of them with another word. If my goal is to vary my word choices, replacing all instances of a repeated word with another isn't something I want to do. However, if I had a long document with, for example, a misspelled unusual proper name like Abernathy, and I had spelled it Abernethy, then using Replace makes sense.

Newer versions of these tools allow us to find and replace graphical elements, tables, punctuation, formatting features, and font properties, such as changing all instances of a word in text to bold or italicized. These two tools not only save time, but can actually improve the quality of writing. That's not a bad thing in this age of texting. FWIW IMHO *This article has been obtained with permission to reprint by non-profit or other user groups, with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group.* ☐

SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

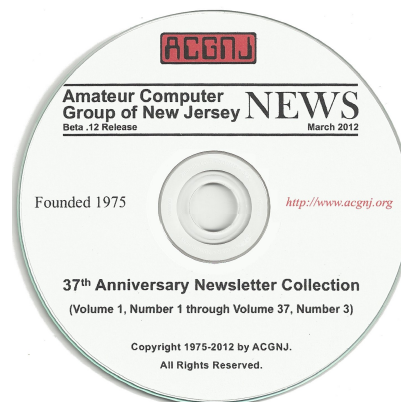
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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Discount Computer Magazine Price List

As described by the DealsGuy

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
Computer Games	\$10.95	20.95	29.95
Computer Gaming World	14.95	28.95	41.95
Computer Shopper1	16.97	32.95	47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	15.95	30.95	
Mac Addict	10.97		
Mac Home Journal	15.97	29.97	
Mac World	12.95		
Maximum PC	9.95	18.95	27.95
Microsoft System Journal	21.95	39.95	
PC Gamer	12.95		
PC Magazine (22/44/66 Issues)	25.97	48.95	68.95
PC World	16.95		
Wired	6.00	12.00	17.00

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to:

Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496

Telephone: 561-488-4465, e-mail: hgoodman@prod-igy.net

Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to their expiration date. I carry more than 300 titles at excellent prices — email for prices. ☐

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



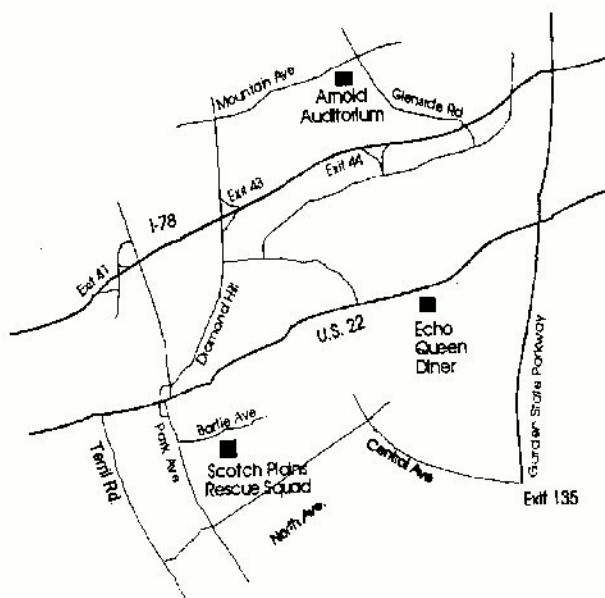
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐